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November 05, 2004

Authorized Officer Roberto Rábago
Mail Stop PCT, Attention: IPEA / US
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Reply to First Written Opinion
International Application No.: PCT/US03/40903
Applicant: ExxonMobil Chemical Patents Inc.
Entitled "Polymerization Processes"
Filed: December 19, 2003
Our Reference: 2003B133 (PCT)

Dear Examiner Rábago:

This letter is in response to the First Written Opinion dated October 14, 2004. Claims 1-69 are before the Examiner. No amendments have been made to the Specification or Claims.

The Written Opinion concluded that claims 1-22, 27, 28, 34, 36-42, 48-52, and 54-69 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by D1 (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,783) for the reasons stated in Section V.

Applicants respectfully disagree. D1 fails to teach among other things the specific *combination* of one or more Lewis acid(s) with one or more initiator(s) in a diluent comprising one or more hydrofluorocarbon(s) as claimed by Applicants. Although there is mention of hydrofluorocarbon solvents (D1 at col. 5, line 13), D1 teaches the combination of titanium catalysts such as titanium tetrachloride with cocatalysts such as aluminum triisobutyl and aluminum triethyl in hydrocarbon solvents such as toluene and n-hexane. Therefore, in light of such indiscriminate teachings of D1 and in the absence of the specific disclosure of the *combination* of one or more Lewis acid(s) with one or more initiator(s) in a diluent comprising one or more hydrofluorocarbon(s), Applicants respectfully submit that D1 does not fairly teach the subject claims.

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Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 23-26, 29-33, 35, 43-47, and 53 meet the criteria set forth under PCT Article 33(2)-(4). Applicants respectfully request that novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability be acknowledged for all claims. In the event that the Examiner concludes to the contrary, Applicants respectfully request an opportunity to respond to a Second Written Opinion. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any other issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

November 5, 2004
Date

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